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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## 31 Memorandum

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DATE: September 22, 1961

TO : RA - Mr. Kohler

FROM : RA - Russell Fessenden

SUBJECT: Briefing for the President on Four Power Berlin Contingency Planning

Mr. Mitze's office has informed us that the White House has requested the Department of Defense to prepare a presentation to the President on the status of Four Power Berlin contingency planning. We understand the briefing is to be ready by Monday, September 25, but that the briefing may not take place until a day or so later.

Mr. Mitze's office says that the presentation will be primarily a summary of the attached report. The presentation would follow the lines of the briefing Admiral Schade has already given to the Four Power Military Subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Mitze.

Although we have participated in the development of the attached Four Power report which provides the basis for the briefing, you will recall that this report has not yet been cleared within the U.S. Government or by the four governments. We have been assured that this fact will be pointed out in the presentation to the President, so that there is no misunderstanding about any of the specific actions have been approved. We have provided Defense with information prepared by "L" on legal aspects so that they may incorporate in the briefing greater treatment of legal considerations.

We have obtained comments from throughout the Department on the attached report and are synthesizing them for use in clearing the report within the U.S. Government and in any Four Power consideration of the report. We understand from Defense that it is not now clear whether Mr. Mitze wishes to submit this report formally to the Four Power Military Subcommittee. He is now having a paper prepared, based on the report, which he may use instead for discussion within the U.S. Government and in the Four Power Military Subcommittee. We shall keep you advised as more definite plans emerge.

Disseminated by Prop.

Attachment.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY W. C. L. DATE 3/13/87

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